

Message Text

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70

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1063

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

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E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, GR, TU, BU, YO, RO

SUBJECT: TURKISH POSITION ON BALKAN CONFERENCE

1.DURING A COVERSATION WITH THE NEWLY ASSIGNED DIRECTOR OF THE EASTERN DEPARTMENT OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFIARS, SENCER ASENA, EMBOFF ASKED IF TURKEY HAD RESPONDED TO GREEK INVITATION TO ATTEND A BALKAN CONFERENCE. ASENA SAID THAT A REPLY HAD BEEN PREPARED BUT HAD NOT BEEN SENT BECAUSE OF THE OCTOBER 12 ELECTIONS. HE INDICATED THAT HE EXPECTED THE TURKISH RESPONSE WOULD BE APPROVED DURING THE NEXT FEW DAYS AND FORWARDED TO ATHENS. HE DID NOT SAY, HOWEVER, WHAT THAT RESPONSE WOULD BE. INSTEAD HE DESCRIBED THE RESPONSES OF THE THREE NATIONS WHO HAVE ACCEPTED THE GREEK INVITATION.

A. YUGOSLAVIA WAS CHARACTERIZED AS HAVING ACCEPTED IT WITH THE RESERVATION THAT THE PROPOSED VICE MINISTER LEVEL WAS TOO HIGH FOR THE INITIAL MEETING.

B. ROMANIA IS SAID TO HAVE ACCEPTED IN PRINCIPLE, BUT RESERVED ITS POSITION ON TH PLACE AND DATE OF THE CONFERENCE, BOTH OF WHICH SHOULD BE MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE TO ALL PARTICIPANTS.

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C. BULGARIA, WHILE ACCEPTING THE INVITATION, ALSO REPORTEDLY INDICATED

THAT THE VICE MINISTER LEVEL WAS TOO HIGH AND THAT EVEN THE EXPERTS
WOULD NEED SUBSTANTIAL TIME PRIOR TO THE CONFERENCE TO PREPARE FOR
IT. BULGARIA ALSO EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT ANY COUNTRY WHO MIGHT HAVE
AN INTEREST IN ONE OF THE SUBJECTS TO BE DISCUSSED AT THE CONFERENCE,
BUT WAS NOT A BALKAN COUNTRY, SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO ATTEND.

2. COMMENT: ASENA'S DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE CONDITIONS
ALLEGEDLY INCLUDED IN THE REPLIES OF OTHER GOVERNMENTS SUGGESTS
TURKEY'S RESPONSE WILL ALSO BE SOMEHOW CONDITIONED--ALTHOUGH
PROBABLY BASICALLY POSITIVE. GOT DOES NOT SEEM PARTICULARLY
ENCHANTED WITH THE IDEA OF A BALKAN CONFERENCE, ESPECIALLY ONE
ORGAINIZED BY GREECE, BUT IT WOULD NOT LIKE TO BE IN A POSITION TO BE
BLAMED FOR THE FAILURE OF THE GREEK OVERTURE.
MACOMBER

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